

Remarks

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 2-4, 6-16, 18, 33-35, 38-48, 50-53, 67, 68, and 72-88 are pending in the application. The Action has divided the claims into two groups and required an election of one group under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Table 1 below shows the claim groups as currently restricted.

Group I	Claims 2-4, 6-16, 33-35, 38-48, 50-53
Subgroup 1	Claims 14, 38-48, 50-53
Subgroup 2	Claim 2-3, 33
Subgroup 3	Claim 35
Group II	Claims 18, 67-68, 72-83 (and 84-88)

Table 1

Applicants elect Group II (Claims 18, 67-68, 72-83, and 84-88) with traverse.

According to M.P.E.P. § 803, "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." Applicants have reviewed the claims and have concluded that all of the claims should be examined. Such action is respectfully requested.

For example, Applicants point out that claim 18 was allowed in the Office Action of September 27, 2005, and claims 10-12, 34, and 35 were indicated as allowable if certain conditions were met, which were addressed in the amendment of March 17, 2006.

Further, the claims were earlier subjected to a restriction on May 31, 2005, which included claims 1-20, 30-37, and 64-72 in a single Group.

Request for Interview

If any issues remain, the Examiner is formally requested to contact the undersigned attorney prior to issuance of the next Office Action in order to arrange a telephonic interview. It is believed that a brief discussion of the merits of the present

application may expedite prosecution. This request is being submitted under MPEP § 713.01, which indicates that an interview may be arranged in advance by a written request.

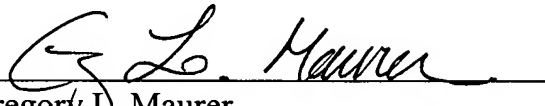
Conclusion

The claims in their present form should now be allowable. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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